

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 10, 12, and 13 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7, and 9 remain consideration.

2. Response to Rejections

The Examiner rejects claims 1-5, 7, and 9 as being anticipated by Nagasawa (U.S. Pat. No. 5,310,813). The Examiner also rejects claim 10 as being obvious over Nagasawa in view of Bair (U.S. Pat. No. 5,789,488), and claims 12 and 13 as being obvious over Nagasawa in view of Nagano (U.S. Pat. No. 5,834, 576).

Note that these new rejections come after Applicants' Appeal Brief. Although Applicants appreciate the Examiner's withdrawal of her previous rejections, they respectfully urge the Examiner to expedite the prosecution of this application.

To expedite, Applicants have cancelled claims 10, 12, and 13 in this response. Thus, the obviousness rejections to these claims no longer apply. The only issue is whether Nagasawa anticipates claims 1-5, 7 and 9. Applicants respectfully answer that it does not.

Nagasawa cannot anticipate the claims because it does not teach a continuous process. In contrast to the Examiner's statement that "Nagasawa discloses a continuous process," *see item 5, page 2 of the Office Action*, Nagasawa provides no such teaching. In fact, the word "continuous" or "continuously" appears only once in Nagasawa. The word appears in Referential Example 1, col. 7, line 50. In this Referential Example, Nagasawa teaches a semi-batch process by "continuously" adding a mixture of MMA (methyl methacrylate), HEMA (2-hydroethyl methacrylate), mercaptoacetic acid, and AIBN into a reactor to polymerize. This process is not a continuous process because there is no continuous withdrawal of the product from the reactor.

Conversely, Applicants' claims define a continuous process that comprises (a) forming a monomer stream containing an acrylic monomer, a polyether macromonomer, and a chain transfer agent; an initiator stream; and, optionally, a

chain transfer agent stream; (b) polymerizing the streams; and (c) continuously withdrawing a polymer stream. See, e.g., claim 1. Element (c) is clearly missing from Nagasawa and thus the anticipation rejection of the claims over Nagasawa fails.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, and 9, and to allow this case to issue. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made." Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to phone their agent, Dr. Shao Guo, at (610) 359-6059 if a discussion of the application might be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 10, 12, and 13 have been cancelled.